

HOUSE BILL 72

R5
HB 380/08 – ENV

9lr1037

By: **Delegates F. Turner, Ali, Barkley, Bartlett, Beidle, Bobo, Branch, Cardin, V. Clagett, Conway, DeBoy, Doory, Eckardt, Frick, Frush, Gilchrist, Gutierrez, Haddaway, Harrison, Heller, Hixson, Holmes, Howard, Hubbard, King, Kirk, Kramer, Krebs, Krysiak, Lee, Levy, Mathias, McDonough, McHale, Miller, Minnick, Montgomery, Morhaim, Murphy, Nathan-Pulliam, Olszewski, Pena-Melnyk, Pendergrass, Proctor, Reznik, Rice, Ross, Shewell, Sossi, Stocksdale, Stukes, Tarrant, Taylor, V. Turner, Vallario, Vaughn, Walker, and Weir**

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2009
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicles – Use of Text Messaging Device While Driving – Prohibition**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from using a text messaging device to write,
4 send, or read a text message while operating a motor vehicle.

5 BY adding to

6 Article – Transportation

7 Section 21–1124.1

8 Annotated Code of Maryland

9 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

11 Article – Transportation

12 Section 27–101(a) and (b)

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – Transportation**

18 **21–1124.1.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **A PERSON MAY NOT USE A TEXT MESSAGING DEVICE TO WRITE, SEND, OR**
2 **READ A TEXT MESSAGE WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE.**

3 27-101.

4 (a) It is a misdemeanor for any person to violate any of the provisions of the
5 Maryland Vehicle Law unless the violation:

6 (1) Is declared to be a felony by the Maryland Vehicle Law or by any
7 other law of this State; or

8 (2) Is punishable by a civil penalty under the applicable provision of
9 the Maryland Vehicle Law.

10 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person convicted of a
11 misdemeanor for the violation of any of the provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law is
12 subject to a fine of not more than \$500.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2009.